

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06
DODE-00 ERDA-05 PM-04 PRS-01 SS-15 /106 W
-----241340Z 021518 /53

R 241155Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 919
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, EG
SUBJECT: QUATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT

REF: (A) STATE 11551, (B) BONN 01234

1. WE HAVE LOCATED OCTOBER 12, 1976 AL-AHRAM ARTICLE
PICKED UP BY ENERPRESSE. ARTICLE IS CONSIDERABLY LESS CATE-
GORIC ABOUT DECISION REGARDING USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY THAN
REPORTED FRENCH ARTICLE. ACCORDING TO ARABIC
TEXT, VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE SOLELY THOSE OF ONE DR. WAFEK
MOURSİ, WHO IS DESCRIBED AS MEMBER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY;
NO MENTION IS MADE OF QATTARA DEPRESSION AUTHORITY OR OF
MINIELECTRICITY, WHICH IS SUPERVISING FEASIBILITY STUDY.
ENERPRESS STORY IS, IN OUR OPINION, MISLEADING IN ITS
ASSUMPTION THAT MOURSİ'S VIEWS REPRESENT THOSE OF QATTARA
OR MINIELECTRICITY AUTHORITIES AND THAT THEY REPRESENT THERE-
FORE, CHANGE IN BASIC GOE APPROACH TO QATTARA DEPRESSION
PROJECT. WE HAVE POUCHED TRANSLATION OF STORY TO NEA/
EGY AND TO ACDA AS REQUESTED REFTTEL.

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2. QATTARA DEPRESSION AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN ADLI YAKIN TOLD
EMBOFF JANUARY 15 THAT FEASIBILITY STUDY HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY
DELAYED DUE TO FRG'S DELAY IN APPROVING THE ADDITIONAL DM
20 MILLION NEEDED TO COMPLETE STUDY. YAKIN HOPED THAT THE
ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE AFTER NEXT EGYPTIAN-
GERMAN MEETING PRESUMABLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY.

3. YAKIN REITERATED BELIEF THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES OFFER ONLY ECONOMICAL ANSWER TO DIGGING OF CANAL FOR THIS IMPORTANT ENERGY PROJECT. YAKIN OPINED THAT QATTARA IS A PROJECT FOR 1985 OR BEYOND, BUT SAID THAT STUDIES MUST BEGIN NOW SO THAT EVERY ASPECT WILL BE COVERED BEFORE FINAL DECISION IS MADE. IN THAT TIME-FRAME, YAKIN, LIKE MOST OTHER EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH PROJECT, BELIEVES THAT INTERNATIONAL RESTRICTIONS WHICH WOULD HINDER PROJECT IF IT WERE READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION NOW SILL BE WORKED OUT. YAKIN BASES HIS OPTIMISM PARTLY ON BELIEF THAT SOVIETS WANT TO USE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES TO RAISE LEVEL OF CASPIAN SEA. INDEED, HE SAID, IT IS WELL KNOWN THEY HAVE ALREADY USED UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIVES TO TRY TO DIVERT ONE RIVER INTO THE CASPIAN.

4. COMMENT. WE SEE NO INCLINATION ON PART OF GOE DECISION MAKERS TO LESSEN INTENSITY OF INTEREST IN QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT OR NUCLEAR ASPECTS. OCTOBER 12 ARTICLE SHOULD BE READ AS SIMPLY ONE MAN'S OPINION.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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